

student, and unprofessional reader, at least, are impaired by the vague manner in which they are too frequently announced.

The work can never become one of authority with the profession, nor do we believe it to be destined to acquire much credit as a popular treatise.

D. F. C.

ART. XVIII.—*Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood.* By CHARLES WEST, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Children, Physician-Accoucheur to the Middlesex Hospital, and Lecturer on Midwifery at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1850: 8vo. pp. 451.

THESE lectures, the substance of the greater portion of which was addressed to the pupils of the Middlesex Hospital, in the summer of 1847, comprise a very able summary of the pathology and treatment of the leading diseases incident to the periods of infancy and childhood. While the author has availed himself of the labors of those who have cultivated the most successfully this particular department of medical inquiry, the value of his lectures is greatly enhanced by the comparison of the opinions and practice advocated by the more authoritative writers on the diseases of which he treats, with the result of his own observations. These observations were made in the large field presented by the Children's Infirmary of London, which was first thrown open to the author in the year 1839, by the kindness of his friend, Dr. Willis, then physician to that institution; to which office, on his resignation, in 1842, Dr. West succeeded. Very nearly 14,000 children, affected with various diseases, were thus brought under his notice, during the nine years preceding the publication of these lectures in their present form; of the diseases of 600 of these patients, he has kept accurate notes, as well as of the result of 180 dissections of cases in which those diseases terminated fatally.

Every portion of these lectures is marked by a general accuracy of description, and by the soundness of the views set forth in relation to the pathology and therapeutics of the several maladies treated of. The lectures on the diseases of the respiratory apparatus, about one-third of the whole number are particularly excellent, forming one of the fullest and most able accounts of these affections, as they present themselves during infancy and childhood, in the English language. The history of the several forms of phthisis during these periods of existence, with their management, will be read by all with deep interest. The author's account of the diseases of the digestive organs is excellent so far as it goes; but it appears to us that too little space—one-sixth of the course—has been accorded to the pathology and treatment of these very frequent, and certainly very important affections of the earlier periods of existence. The American physician will be disappointed in not meeting with any notice of some of those forms of disease of the alimentary canal, which he will be frequently called upon to treat in children. Notwithstanding the lectures are addressed to the medical student and practitioner of Great Britain, they will, nevertheless, form a useful addition to the library of the American student and physician.

D. F. C.

ART. XIX.—*Clinical Lectures on the Physical Diagnosis of Phthisis.* By RICHARD PAYNE COTTON, M. D. London, 1849: pp. 23.

THESE lectures are republished from the *London Medical Gazette*. They are six in number, and were delivered at the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, by Dr. Cotton, assistant physician to the institution. Without claiming to announce new discoveries, or to propound new laws, in the department of physical diagnosis, they are presented as the result of the lecturer's personal observation and reflection, and they furnish satisfactory

evidence that he is not less accurate as a reasoner, than skilful as an observer. He deserves the credit of having placed a familiar subject in a clearer and broader light than others who have handled it. In method, distinctness, and completeness of analysis, he may rank with his countryman, Walshe; and like him, he seems to have developed these qualities in the best of schools for such cultivation, the school of Paris.

The experienced diagnostician will not, it is true, find much to aid him in these lectures. His difficulties are greatest in cases of phthisis complicated with some other pulmonary disease, in which he is required to form and express an opinion after a single, or it may be two examinations, of the patient. A lecturer cannot unravel such difficulties except by an analysis of individual examples of the sort; he cannot lay down rules which will apply to all of them, because the variety and degree of the complications actually met with are almost infinite. But the simple, or differential, diagnosis of tubercular consumption, that which the student must first of all acquire, may be taught almost axiomatically, and he is the best teacher who presents it in the plainest language, the most concisely, and in such a manner as that a proper succession is observed in the steps to be followed, and an adequate reason perceived for the opinion to which every one of them leads. In these respects, the lectures of Dr Cotton offer an excellent model, and point him out as likely to become a worthy compeer of those gifted men, who are introducing into English medicine a degree of system and accuracy, the want of which in times past has so greatly detracted from its influence and its value.

A. S.

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ART. XX. *Epidemic Cholera—Its History, Causes, Pathology, and Treatment.*

By C. B. COVENTRY, M.D. Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence in the Medical Institution of Geneva College; Professor of Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Buffalo. Buffalo, 1849: 12mo. pp. 119.

*A Practical Treatise on Asiatic Cholera, which every person should read, as it may be the means of saving the lives of thousands. For the benefit of the public it is issued in Pamphlet form; taken from a new Medical work, now being published on Diseases of the South.* By THOMPSON MCGOWN, M.D. Graduate of Transylvania University; Member of the Lexington Medical Society, and a Practitioner of the South. Philadelphia, 1849: 8vo. pp. 30.

*Letters upon Cholera.* By FRANK A. RAMSEY, M.D. Knoxville, Tennessee, 1849: 8vo. pp. 30.

*Cholera—Its Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment considered and explained.* By I. P. BATCHELDER, M.D., of New York City. New York, 1849: 12mo. pp. 45.

*Lecture on Epidemic Cholera, delivered in the Hall of the Philadelphia College of Medicine, in May 1849, at the request of the Medical Class.* By THOMAS D. MITCHELL, M.D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, and late Professor in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky. Philadelphia, 1849: 8vo. pp. 22.

*The Pathology and Treatment of Asiatic Cholera, so called.* By A. L. COX, M.D. New York, 1849: 12mo. pp. 54.

*The Pathology and Treatment of Cholera: with an Appendix, containing his latest Instructions to Planters and Heads of Families, remote from medical advice, in regard to its Prevention and Cure.* By SAMUEL A. CARTWRIGHT, M.D. New Orleans, 1849: 8vo. pp. 40.

THE above are the titles of a few of the host of publications, to which the recent prevalence of cholera in the United States has given birth. The character and object of these works differ considerably. Those of Drs. McGown, Ramsey, and the appendix to that of Dr. Cartwright, are confessedly written for the instruction of the public, or those remote from medical advice; that of Dr. Mitchell is a lecture delivered to a class of medical students, presenting an outline of the pathology and therapeutics of cholera; the main ob-